

has worked for 160 million people for nearly 60 years. Study after study concludes that Social Security will be fully funded throughout year 2032, and in need of only minor modifications to make up a relatively small shortfall after that date.

Mr. Speaker, yes, a careful study should be done, but not a rush to privatize this system. Privatization proponents promise huge profits, but ignore the risks and inequity inherent in their plans. High returns do not come without big risks. And why should we rush to turn over our precious retirement system, which provides a guaranteed benefit, to the whims of a very fickle stock market?

Privatization depends on individuals putting their money into retirement accounts, something difficult for low-wage workers, mothers working part-time while raising children, and those who experience family emergencies. Even under a best-case scenario, those who are able to diligently add to their retirement accounts may receive poor investment advice or, worse yet, the entire market could crash. We saw that in our history earlier this century. That is why our Social Security system was established. To provide a fair but guaranteed basic retirement income.

Wall Street wants to take a massive amount of American capital, a portion of every single working American's paycheck, and gamble with it. Yes, Mr. Speaker, gamble with it. The problem of a shortfall after the year 2032, not bankruptcy as slick public relations operatives would have us believe, could be solved without dismantling our entire system. The current successful system keeps half of our elderly citizens out of poverty.

Earlier today, I joined with several of my colleagues in cosponsoring legislation in support of strengthening Social Security to meet the challenges of the next century. In that bill, 57 of us expressed our support for continuing to guarantee a basic retirement for American citizens. We pledged to fight for adopting solutions to restore full funding of the system after the year 2032 that are nondiscriminatory and equitable to Americans of all ages.

Privatization cannot offer that promise, nor any guarantee. The stock market, even with its latest continual rises, is so volatile, so full of risk, that an entire industry has been built around tracking its daily rise and fall by a few or even more percentage points.

Social Security, on the other hand, administers its basic retirement, which everyone has been encouraged to supplement with their own savings and investments, in an equitable way. We as a society then do not have to worry about impoverished mothers, fathers, grandfathers, or worse yet, those who have no living relatives.

Privatization proposals also fail to offer another guarantee to workers that is one cornerstone of Social Security:

A monthly check for workers should they become disabled, or for their school-aged children if the worker dies.

Social Security does have enough money to pay all benefits until the year 2032. Sure, adjustments must be made to ensure retirement security for those retiring after that date. Yet even doing nothing, Social Security will pay 75 percent of the benefits then. We must continue to discuss the minor modifications that will continue this reliable program for all future generations.

But Social Security, with its guaranteed and fair benefits, does not need to be scrapped, particularly for a privatized gambling program that would guarantee lifetime "social insecurity" for most and short-term security for the few on Wall Street.

Mr. Speaker, let us keep the Social Security system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RACIAL OVERTONES TO CENSUS COUNT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, there they go again. The Republican leadership of the House fails to match their rhetoric in favor of a color-blind America with deeds.

Last year, Members of this House criticized the investigation of the Dornan election contest because it unfairly questioned the loyalty and the legality of Hispanic and Asian American voters. The process the House employed produced race-based outcomes.

The Republican response was to ignore these facts and to attack their critics for "inciting racism" and "playing the race card." Republican amendments this year to campaign finance reform would discriminate against people of color and would ban the bilingual

ballot. Yet Republican candidates mail campaign brochures in Spanish and other languages. And when we point out the hypocrisy, they will attack us once again for "playing the race card."

Yesterday, I was offended to learn of remarks made by the senior Republican staff member working on the new census as reported by the respected journalist David Broder. This staff member, who works for this House, unmistakably revealed that race is a factor in the Republican effort to block an accurate and less expensive census.

As Broder reported, "... it is about raw political power, as I was reminded on a recent visit to the GOP command post on Capitol Hill."

When two of my colleagues wrote to the gentleman from Florida (Chairman MILLER) yesterday to express their concern, he fired back a response within hours accusing them of "injecting racial politics into the debate." Once again, when racial bias, prejudice, and base-based outcomes are exposed, the Republican response is to attack the messenger for "playing the race card."

Mr. Speaker, we who oppose government sanctioned racism will not be silenced by these attacks. We will stand in this well as long as it takes to shed light and bring honest debate about the merits of an accurate census.

Race was injected into this process not by those who object to prejudice. Race became an issue by those who have turned this process into a fight over raw political power.

It was the Republican leader who launched this agenda when he said that meeting our constitutional obligation to provide an accurate census of all Americans was "a dagger aimed at the heart of the Republican majority."

Mr. Speaker, if truth is a dagger, if accuracy is aimed at the heart of the Republican majority, then the only thing the leadership of this House should fear is judgment.

THE DEATH OF ANDREW KASSAPIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a young man, an American citizen, who was murdered during a brutal Turkish invasion of Cyprus during the summer of 1974.

Since the 1974 Cyprus invasion, 1,619 people have been missing, including five American citizens. The administration recently submitted the "President's Report to Congress on the Investigation of the Whereabouts of the U.S. Citizens Missing from Cyprus Since 1974." It concludes that four of the missing Americans were probably killed during the violent events of 1974.

It also confirms the belief that one American, Andrew Kassapis, was killed by Turkish-Cypriot militiamen and was buried in a field in Northern Cyprus. The report states that Andrew